

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A wheel for an endless track for a vehicle,
[comprising] comprising:

a hub including a disc-shaped mounting [member] plate having a width substantially less than the width of said track and extending generally perpendicular to an axis of rotation of said hub[and], said mounting plate including a circumferential contact surface of uniform spacing from said axis of rotation and first and second lateral mounting surfaces on opposite sides of said mounting [member] plate;

a first plurality of metal wheel segments mounted to said first lateral mounting surface of said mounting [member] plate; and

a second plurality of metal wheel segments mounted to and engaging said second lateral mounting surface;

each of said wheel segments including at least one axially extending support element for supporting said track, and a first locator surface for contacting said circumferential contact surface of said hub for locating said segment in a radial direction, and a second locator surface for contacting one of said lateral mounting surfaces of said mounting [member] plate for locating said segment axially[.];

said wheel segments of said first and second pluralities including respective inner surfaces cooperating to define a central peripheral groove sized to receive radially extending positioning lugs of said belt.

2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 1 wherein said hub includes an outer annular section defining said circumferential contact surface and said first and second lateral mounting surfaces.

3. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 2 wherein said circumferential contact surface is centered on said axis of rotation of said hub, and said lateral contact surfaces are generally planar.

4. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 3 wherein said lateral mounting surfaces are flat and extend in respective planes generally perpendicular to said axis of rotation.

5. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 4 wherein each segment comprises a plurality of axially extending support members for engaging and supporting said track, and a radially extending brace member increasing in an axial dimension proceeding away from said axis of rotation to a distal end formed integral with an associated support element and supporting the same substantially its entire axial length.

6. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 5 wherein each segment further comprises a base portion defining said second locator surface, an intermediate portion extending axially away from an associated lateral mounting surface of said hub; and an outer section extending generally radially of said axis of rotation and integral with a distal portion of said brace and said support element.

7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 1 wherein each of said segments is integrally formed of metal and includes a plurality of axially extending support members for supporting said track; and includes a bolt receiving aperture in said base, said wheel including a threaded fastener securing two opposing segments together and to said hub.

8. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 7 wherein segments of said first plurality are angularly offset relative to segments of said second plurality.

9. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 1 wherein said hub includes an outer annular region of generally uniform width defining said first and second lateral mounting surfaces as parallel planar radial surfaces.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 9 [characterized in that] wherein said circumferential surface is cylindrical and said first and second lateral surfaces are flat, and wherein said circumferential contact surface and at least a portion of said lateral mounting surfaces are machined.

11. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 10 wherein each of said first locator surfaces of said wheel segments includes first and second radially spaced lugs having surfaces engaging said circumferential contact surface of said hub.

12. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 10 wherein each of said second locator surfaces of said wheel segments comprises first and second contact portions adjacent associated bolt holes.

13. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 12 wherein each of said second locator surfaces of said wheel segments includes a third contact portion adjacent a radially inboard end of said segment.

14. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 1 wherein each of said segments includes a plurality of generally parallel track support elements spaced angularly apart relative to said axis and further including an intermediate section extending axially away from an associated lateral surface of said hub, said intermediate section defining at least one aperture for permitting debris to pass therethrough.

15. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 1 wherein said hub comprises an axle tube; said mounting member of said hub comprising a disc mounted to said axle tube; and first and second frusto-conical reinforcing members located on opposing sides of said disc and extending between said axle tube and said disc.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A wheel for a vehicle having a continuous ground-engaging belted track, comprising:

a hub including a mounting member having a thickness substantially less than a width of said track and defining opposing generally upright mounting surfaces extending radially outward [of] from an axis of rotation of said hub;

first and second pluralities of cast metal segments, each plurality of segments mounted in side-by-side relation respectively on opposing lateral sides of said mounting member,

each segment including a base engaging one of said mounting [surface] surfaces of said mounting member, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced support elements each having a belt engaging surface, and cooperating to form a support for said belt; and

threaded fasteners for removably mounting said segments to [upright] said mounting surfaces of said mounting member.

17. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 16 wherein each segment is in the form of a truncated sector.

18. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 16 wherein said segments of said first plurality of segments are angularly offset relative to segments of said second plurality of segments.

19. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 18 wherein the support elements of said first plurality of segments are angularly offset relative to said support elements of said second plurality of segments.

20. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The wheel of claim 18 wherein each of said segments includes a base defining an aperture for receiving a mounting bolt, said base defining an axial locator surface for engaging an associated upright mounting surface of said mounting member of said hub and wherein said axial locator surface of said base at
5 least partially surrounds said bolt aperture.

21. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 20 further including a curved contact surface on said base member extending angularly about said axis of rotation and located centrally of said segment.

22. (ORIGINAL) The wheel of claim 20 comprising a plurality of lugs each defining an axial locator surface engaging a circumferential contact surface of said hub.

23. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A cast metal segment for a wheel for a belted-track vehicle, said wheel including a hub having a circumferential contact surface and at least one generally vertical lateral mounting surface, said segment comprising:

a base defining at least a first locator surface for contacting said contact surface of said hub to locate said segment radially of an axis of rotation of said hub;

an intermediate section extending radially outward of said base and inclined radially outwardly of said lateral mounting surface of said hub when said segment is mounted thereto;

an outer section spaced from and generally parallel to said lateral mounting section of said hub when said segment is mounted thereto;

a plurality of axially extending belt support elements cast integrally with said outer section; and

an integrally cast brace for each of said belt support elements extending between said base section and said intermediate section and an associated belt support element.

24. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A wheel for a vehicle having a continuous ground-engaging belted track comprising:

a hub including a disc having a thickness substantially less than a width of said track and extending radially outward of an axis of rotation of said hub assembly;

first and second pluralities of cast metal segments,

individual segments of said first and second plurality of segments mounted in side-by-side relation respectively on opposing radial sides of said disc,

each segment including a base engaging one side surface of said disc, and a plurality of spaced support elements having belt engaging surfaces forming a cylindrical support for said belt; and

threaded fasteners for removably mounting said segments to said radial sides of said disc.